

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 40, Number 05

May 2015

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting

Friday, May 1, 2015, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Scheduled Topic: Mobile Wallets.

Scheduled Speaker: Brenda Bell.

Window Pains Meeting

Friday, May 15, 2015, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Scheduled Topic: BitCoin.

Scheduled Speaker: Ron Winter.

An Anniversary

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

Next month is the club's 40th Anniversary; but this month is an anniversary, too. Exactly *ten* years ago, in our May 2005 issue, the first article that I wrote for this newsletter was published. (Hooray for me!) Please see *How I met Barbara DeGroot* in our April 2015 issue for additional details; and for trivia buffs among you: As of April 2015, my "official" article count stands at 131. (It's that high because, once or twice a year, I write *more* than one article in the same month).



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

This newsletter was made by 100% pure Linux!

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ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org).

For news from OTHER clubs, please go to:

<http://www.acgnj.org/joomla/>

Board of Directors Meeting: ~~Tues, April 28, 7 PM~~
POSTPONED until Friday, May 1.

Board of Directors Meeting: **Friday** May 1, **7 PM**
(Immediately *before* the **Main Meeting** below)

Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, May 1, 8:00 PM

Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, May 4, 8:00 PM

Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

NJ Gamers: Friday, May 8, 6:00 PM

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Computer Workshop: **Saturday**, May 9, **1:00 PM**

Bob Hawes (cmp.wrksph (at) acgnj.org).

Java: Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 PM

Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Investing: Thursday, May 14, 8:00 PM

Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

Window Pains: Friday, May 15, 8:00 PM

John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

Web Browser: Monday, May 18, 7:30 PM

David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, May 19, 7:30 PM

Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, June 1, 8:00 PM

Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on last page. 🗺

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ACGNJ News

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Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

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Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at (<http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>).

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ACGNJ Reports

Main Meeting Report

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

There were a total of 7 attendees at our April 3, 2015 meeting, presented by Bob Hawes (me). My topic was "Cool/Fun/Useful Websites", and I started off by showing two YouTube videos that aren't particularly useful. The first was a silly and politically *incorrect* mash-up, using *Barbie Girl* by the Danish-Norwegian group *Aqua* (released in the US by MCA Records in 1997) as its audio track. For video, it used fairly recent scenes of Paris Hilton "singing" the Barbie part and old films of Adolph Hitler "singing" the Ken part.

Paris Hitler:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LTZquCw1vs>

The second video was a combination of live action and stop-motion animation. It's not perfect, but it's *very, very* good. On the title page, the only credits are "Copyright MCMLXVII Janson-Menville-Brain". From that, I was able to do a web search and find that it was written, produced and directed by the

team of Len Janson and Chuck Menville. Dave Brain was the cameraman. On screen, Len Janson played the leader of the bad bikers, and Chuck Menville played the leader of the top-hatted scooter riders. Watch the riders' feet. They did things *forty-eight* years ago that today's computer animators would have a hard time duplicating.

Vicious Cycles:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW4poMQSX9o>

After that, I started running through the 2008 version of the 31 page presentation put together by the late Paul Natanson. (He was one of our "go-to guys" for many years). Unfortunately, I didn't get all the way to the end, and I never even got started on the new stuff that I'd dug up and brought along. (I have DOC, ODT, PDF and HTML versions of Paul's presentation. I'll e-mail any or all of them to anyone who asks me).

ACGNJ Investment Meeting Summary (Apr. 9, 2015)

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

For April's meeting, 4/9/2015, we had **11** attendees.

Jim Cooper started with a presentation of a really interesting indicator for identifying TREND. The indicator provides a lot of visual insight to the current trend of a particular ticker. Everybody was very interested and there were a lot of questions and interactions about the indicator. Once again, Jim provided the code and documentation for the indicator to all attendees. Another great Job, Jim.

Thanks to everybody who attended, I hope that you

all can make very good use of what Jim provided to us. Please attend the meetings, everybody learns from them, and, if there are any "giveaways", you will be sure to get your own copy.

We hope to see you at May's meeting, **5/14/2015**. Also, please send an email to Jim if you would like **any** trading topic to be discussed, or if you would like to discuss any trading preferences that you have. Others would like to hear **your** trading ideas, too.

Thank you. Philip Lees

Java Users Group Report

Mike Redlich, ACGNJ

This month's meeting (April 14) was entitled "Technical Overview of Rust (part 2)." This was a more refined presentation and review of code as Mike learned more about this little programming language while attending the Emerging Technologies for the Enterprise Conference on April 7-8.

Before getting into Rust, Mike reviewed some of his experiences at the conference and announced that Ken Rimple, Director of Education at Chariot Solutions, has confirmed that he would visit with our

group for the June meeting, that is, June 9, 2015. He provided Mike with three presentation choices:

AngularJS 2.0 (Path Forward)

ES6

AngularJS 1.x

The overall consensus from those in attendance was the ES6 presentation, but Mike created an on-line survey for additional feedback:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VXFKBV3>

There were a total of six (6) attendees.

Computer Workshop Report

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

We had only 2 attendees at our April 11 meeting. At first, we followed our usual random-access format.

Then, we started working together, trying to get some old (but not *too* old) computers running.

Windows Pains Meeting Report

Scot Jenkins, ACGNJ

The ACGNJ Window Pains meeting was held on April 17, 2015. Scot Jenkins gave a talk on "Backups". Having given a talk on the subject thirteen years ago at another user group, this talk focused on things that have changed over the years

(new hardware, software, operating systems, cloud storage and networking), as well as things that have remained the same (the need to backup/restore data). Attendance was fairly good with 10 persons attending.

Still Too Big??? (Part 3)

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

The focus of this series of articles has shifted quite a bit since its inception. In its first installment (*Still Too Big??? (Part 1)*), in our December 2014 issue), my plan was to continue the data gathering started in my *ten* part *Why So Big?* series. (Published in our December 2012, January 2013, February 2013, and May through November 2013 issues, the *Why So*

Big? series gathered data by examining our October 2012 through September 2013 issues in *mind numbing* detail). So, intending to "pick up where I left off", I started to deconstruct our October through December 2013 newsletters, by deleting all of their images, one by one. (Using Scribus, my fun, fabulous and *free* desktop publisher). However, after

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processing just the October 2013 issue, I got an incredibly anomalous result that was way, *way, WAY* "Too Big". This "derailed" everything, so I took a few months off to re-think. (By the way, the short answer to our title has now become "Maybe").

Anyway, as I reported in *Still Too Big??? (Part 2)* (in our April 2015 issue), I realized that *no* working theory is perfect. Lexicographers include "anomalies" and "outliers" in their dictionaries because such things *DO* exist, and always will. I'll just have to be prepared to run into them occasionally. So I decided that I've *already* collected enough data. Now, I'll have to try to *use* that data. Therefore, I employed the size reduction techniques that I described in *Let's Get Small* (in our March 2015 issue). Actually, the actions that I took in *Part 2* looked quite similar to the actions that I took in *Part 1*. (Removing all of each issue's images, one by one); but the *purpose* of those actions is quite different. Now, I'm replacing each of those images with a *shrunk* copy.

Here, sorted in descending size order, are the nine

"Too Big" newsletters published since I took over as full time Newsletter Editor. They all equal or exceed our target maximum PDF file size of **3 MB** (established in my initial *Why So Big?* article). Plus, three of the ten "practice" newsletters that I made for the club in 2008 through 2011 (*before* I became full-time Editor) are also "Too Big". However, at least for now, *those* three have all been declared untouchable. (See *Part 2* for details).

April 2014 (Originally 5.4 MB. Reduced to 2.8 MB in *Let's Get Small*).

May 2014 (Originally 5.0 MB. Reduced to 2.9 MB in *Part 2*).

October 2014 (4.7 MB) (Currently being processed).

February 2014 (4.2 MB)

October 2012 (4.1 MB)

August 2012 (3.3 MB)

November 2012 (3.2 MB)

September 2014 (3.2 MB)

July 2013 (3.047 MB, right at "the outer limit")

The initial size of our October 2014 issue was actually **6.1** MB (but that version was *never*

published). I reduced it to its current 4.7 MB size by subjecting it to some early size reduction experiments. Unfortunately, due to looming newsletter deadline pressures, I *didn't* write down exactly what I did at that time. (As I already said in *Part 2*, "Shame on me"). Anyway, in *Part 2*, I deleted 35 files from that issue before I was finished. So now, in *this* article, I've got to shrink them, and then put them back.

According to my file browser, the PDF produced *after* those 35 files were deleted measured 1.8 MB (1,901,918 bytes). Subtracting that from the 4.7 MB current size yielded a size reduction of 2.9 MB; but (also according to my file browser), those 35 files only *add up* to 1.6 MB. From those very *unequal* figures, I can only conclude that at least *some* of those files are anomalies like the one that messed me up in *Part 1*. So all of my previous theories and calculations now mean *absolutely nothing*, and we're reduced to guesswork.

In point of fact, that's not quite true. There's one more calculation that I *can* make. The most that we

can add to 1.8 MB before it exceeds 3.0 MB is 1.2 MB. That's roughly 42% of 2.9 MB. So even if we could legibly reduce every single one of those 35 files to half of its current size, it *wouldn't* be good enough. We'll have to start with *less* than that and see what happens. I've got a really bad feeling that this just *won't* be possible; but let's see what happens.

Here, expanded a bit from *Let's Get Small*, are my size reduction instructions: Launch the GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program), then click on the Tools drop-down menu, then click on the Transform Tools sub-menu, and then click on the Scale tool. Inside the window that pops up, there are Width and Height boxes. Just to their right is a graphical indicator that controls whether the Width and Height boxes are ganged together or not. Click on it. Then go to the drop-arrow box that controls unit selection, and change it from "pixels" to "percent".

In addition, I had to make further refinements, because I'm decreasing my images in *two* dimensions, not just one. So to reduce an image to about three quarters of its size, I'll reduce it to 87%.

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($0.87 \times 0.87 = 0.757$). To reduce an image to about half of its size, I'll use 71%. ($0.71 \times 0.71 = 0.504$). Likewise, to get about a third of its size, I'll use 57% ($0.57 \times 0.57 = 0.325$). For a quarter of its size, I'll use 50% ($0.5 \times 0.5 = 0.25$). For about one tenth of its size, I'll use 31% ($0.31 \times 0.31 = 0.096$, close enough to 0.1). For about one twentieth of its size, I'll use 23% ($0.23 \times 0.23 = 0.053$); and for one hundredth of its size, I'll use 10% ($0.1 \times 0.1 = 0.01$).

OK. That's *more* than enough recap. Here's my plan of operation: Starting on page 1, I'll reduce each image to a quarter of its size, and then check for legibility. If it's still usable, I'll try again with even more reduction. If not, I'll try again with less reduction. Hopefully, I'll get at least *something* for each image. Each time I've processed five or so images, I'll produce a new output PDF and record its size. So, everybody please cross your fingers; and *let's go!*

The first image on page 1 of our October 2014 issue is MoonWitch2.jpg, my 1992 Full Moon Witch. This particular image was created on September 11, 2013.

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It's actually a converted copy of MoonWitch2.png, which I made on September 10, 2013 by copying just that Witch from a TIFF image that I made in July of 2010 (by scanning the cover page from my October 1992 Bayonne Train Club newsletter into my computer). I made that newsletter in my good old DOS desktop publishing days, back when dinosaurs ruled the earth, and everybody was talking about amazing new inventions like fire, the wheel, and the 286 computer.

For a fairly good overview of my DOS desktop publishing activities, see *Forgotten Secrets From The Ancient Past* in our August 2010 issue. (The witch herself appears at the top of page 11). Speaking of witches: I reduced MoonWitch2.jpg to one quarter size, and got an image that was a little blurry, but probably still usable. However, the original image measured 2.9 KB, and my replacement image measured 1.2 KB, for a difference of 1.7 KB. So unless I get *really* desperate, I'm going to stick with the original on this one.

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The second image on page 1 is Frankie1.jpg, the Frankenstein Monster. I reduced him to one quarter size, and got an image that was also a little blurry, but probably usable. This time, I decided to use it. The third image on page 1 is ACGNJ4R.JPG, our club logo. I reduced it to one quarter size, and got an image that was still sharp. So I undid that Scale operation, and tried one *hundredth* of its size, and it was still usable. So I went with that one. The fourth image on page 1 is TINY_PC2.jpg, our “tiny PC” picture. I reduced it to one quarter size, and got an image that was very slightly blurry, but still usable. So I used it.

The next image is Pumpkin1.jpg on page 5. I reduced it to one quarter size, and got an image that was slightly fuzzy. Since the original image measured only 12 KB, I decided to stick with it for now. The other image on page 5 is NullVoid.jpg. I reduced it to one quarter size, and got an image that was blurry. So I went back, tried one half size, and got a good result. So I took what I could get. The first image on page 6 was EvilUD2.jpg. I reduced it

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time. The next largest image after that was H-Print7.jpg. When I reduced it to half of its size, it was much too blurry; but when I tried three quarters of its size, it was OK.

Next came TShirtR4.JPG. When I reduced it to one hundredth of its size, it was much too blurry; but when I tried one twentieth of its size, it was OK. After that came H-Print10.jpg. When I reduced it to half of its size, it was too blurry; but when I tried three quarters of its size, it was OK. That brought us to our second test PDF. It measured 2.1 MB (2,191,439 bytes). That's a 227,263 byte difference, or 222 KB; and since the 5 files that we added measured 225.9 KB, we gained back 3.9 KB from our “7.5 KB too high” figure above. That leaves us just 3.6 KB too high. Maybe I *won't* be getting really desperate after all.

The largest image now remaining was H-PNot17.jpg. When I reduced it to one third of its size, it was too blurry; but when I reduced it to half its size, it was OK. Next was H-Spac11. When I reduced it to one third of its size, it was too blurry;

to one quarter size, and also got an image that was blurry. So I tried one half size, got a good enough result, and accepted it.

Now it was time to make our first test PDF. It measured 1.9 MB (1,964,176 bytes). That's a 62,258 byte difference, or 60.8 KB; but since the 7 files that we added measured only 53.3 KB, our output is already 7.5 KB too high; and we're just barely started. Aarrgh! Looks like maybe I *will* be getting really desperate. Oh well. All we can do is keep going. However, I've decided to change my method of selection. So I'll start with the *largest* image and work my way down. At least this way, maybe we'll see some big differences.

The largest of our target images is NL_CD_12.jpg. When I reduced it to one hundredth size, it was too blurry; but when I tried one twentieth of its size, I got an acceptable result. So I accepted it. The next largest image was TShirtF4.JPG. When I reduced it to one hundredth size, it was much too blurry; but when I tried one twentieth of its size, it was only a *little* bit blurry. So I accepted it. At least for this one

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but when I reduced it to half its size, it was OK. Next was H-PNot16.jpg. When I reduced it to one third of its size, it was too blurry; but when I reduced it to half its size, it was OK. The next image was PC-4line.jpg. When I reduced it to one third of its size, it was OK; but when I further reduced it to a quarter of its size, it was blurry. So I went with one third.

The next image was PC-3line.jpg. When I reduced it to one third of its size, it was OK; and when I further reduced it to a quarter of its size, it was slightly fuzzy but acceptable. So I went with a quarter. That brought us to our third test PDF. It measured 2.3 MB (2,360,344 bytes). That's a 168,905 byte difference, or 165 KB; and since the 5 files that we added measured 167.5 KB. that's another 2.5 KB that we gained back. That leaves us just 1.1 KB too high.

Looking at my list, I saw that four of the next five largest remaining images came from the two “foreign import” articles that I'd included in the October issue. So I decided to process *all six* of the images in those two articles by themselves; but I decided to try another experiment first. I copied just those images

into an empty Scribus work file, and I created a PDF file. As I'd suspected, the new PDF containing only those six images came out measuring 483 KB larger than a test PDF containing *no* images. However, those six images together had only added up to **197 KB**. So at least one of those images was anomalous. (Or maybe *all* of them were).

Anyway, the best way to proceed was to start again with an empty Scribus work file, and re-add those files one at a time. So I did. The first file measured 17.4 KB, and adding it increased the output PDF size by 63.2 KB. The second file measured 30.2 KB, and adding it increased the output PDF size by 120.4 KB. The third file measured 36.2 KB, and adding it increased the output PDF size by 172.4 KB. The fourth file measured 38.1 KB, and adding it increased the output PDF size by 28.2 KB. The fifth file measured 51.4 KB, and adding it increased the output PDF size by 74.1 KB. Then the sixth file measured 19.0 KB, and adding it increased the output PDF size by 24.8 KB.

Analyzing my results: Those first three files (from

the first “foreign import” article) are all clearly anomalous. Each one increased its output PDF by *more* than twice its size. As for size reduction, the best I could do for all three was half size for each one. On the other hand, the fourth through sixth files (from the second “foreign import”) are just weird. The fifth and sixth files increased the PDF size by more than their own size, but only a *little bit* more. While the fourth file actually increased the PDF size by significantly *less* than its own size. Furthermore, I couldn't reduce any of their sizes *at all*. Even a tiny bit of reduction produced a *very* blurry result.

Digressing a bit: Right after I became full time Editor, I realized that I needed a way to predict the approximate sizes of newsletter articles. So I created a special Scribus work file to do just that. It consisted of twenty pages that were formatted like typical newsletter pages. Each page contained four half page wide by half page high text frames, arranged so that they completely filled the page; and all of the frames on all of the pages were linked together. (I don't really expect to ever have a single

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article that's 20 pages long; but that capacity is there, just in case). Measure1.sla (and its slightly tweaked successors) have helped me a lot each month, as I'm trying to figure out what articles will fit in a given issue, and what are just “Too Big”.

End of digression: Now, I've realized that I could use a somewhat similar work file to test individual images for anomalous behavior. So I've created Measure2.sla, consisting of a single page containing only one image frame, measuring 3.6 inches wide by 4.6 inches high, (Although I *can*, of course, change those dimensions if necessary). First, I produced an output PDF file that didn't contain an image. It measured 306 KB (313,120 bytes). Then, one by one, I used Measure2.sla on all six of those files, subtracting 313,120 bytes from the size of each output PDF. (To get just the change in size produced by each file). Thus, I confirmed all of their anomalous results. So I may not know *why* I got those results, but I *do* know that they are correct.

After that, I used Measure2.sla to check the remaining 12 as yet unprocessed files; and *eight* of

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them turned out to be anomalous. However, I decided to process the largest two anomalies first. H-Arrow8.jpg (which measured 28.2 KB) produced an increase of 106.2KB, while H-Print6.jpg (which measured 22.5KB) produced an increase of 81.6K. First, I tried to reduce the size of H-Arrow8.jpg; but everything I tried came out too blurry. Next I tried H-Print6.jpg; and the least objectionable reduction that I could get was to half size. So I took it.

Then, even though I'd only been able to shrink one of those files, I made a new test PDF file containing *all* of the 35 files that I'd removed, including those two files *and* the remaining 10 unprocessed files. (Those last 10 files were *all* smaller than 20 KB, so they didn't have much potential for shrinkage, anyway). My previous bad feeling had suddenly been replaced by a *good* feeling; and as you can see, I was right. (Though just barely). The resultant file (2014Oct4r.pdf) measured 2.91 MB (3,047,112 bytes). As is my usual practice, that file had been created with Scribus 1.3.3.13. A “quick-and-dirty” conversion that I made using Scribus 1.4.0 measured

2.87 MB (3,009,009 bytes). That's 37.2 KB (38,103 bytes) *smaller*.

Well, we've used about 2,900 words to describe the processing of just one "Too Big" newsletter. However, as listed above, we've still got six more of them to go, ranging in size from 4.2 MB to 3.047 MB. (Barely over the limit). How many more "chapters" do you think it will take us to get through all six?

Appendix I: A Time Travel Paradox

In January and February of 2015, I was "on a roll". That's when I did *most* of the writing and *all* of the size reduction for *Still Too Big??? (Part 2)* and for this *Part 3*. Plus, I did the same for the as-yet-

unpublished *Parts 4* and *5*. In that two month period, I managed to create a new approximately 3,000 word long article every two weeks or so. (And that was *in addition* to the usual work necessary to produce the regular newsletters that were "under construction" during those two months).

Because of this size reducing/writing binge, I was able to include *every one* of our nine newly shrunk PDF files in the 40th Anniversary Newsletter Collection CD that I put together for the 2015 Trenton Computer Festival. So *that's* how files that I didn't tell you about until April through July of 2015 could exist on a CD that was being sold back in March of 2015. (Cue the Doctor Who theme music).

See you next month. ☐

Tech Support Scam – Received a Tech Support call lately?

Phil Sorrentino, Member of The Computer Club, Florida

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This is a very nasty, and possibly costly, scam. It preys on people's concern that their computer might

be running slow or might be infected with a virus or some other type of malware. It typically starts with a

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call from, ostensibly, "Microsoft or Windows or Dell or some other, known Computer Manufacturer's Tech Support" organization. And it can end with the computer owner paying for basically nothing, and giving the scammer his credit card information.

Let's make the point here: Microsoft says "You will never receive a legitimate call from Microsoft or our partners to charge you for computer fixes." So, never respond to a call of this nature; just hang up.

There seem to be many variations on how the scam can get started. Sometimes you will get a call from the "Microsoft or Dell Tech Support Desk" saying that they have noticed that there is a virus, or errors, on your computer. Sometimes it is started with a pop-up window on your screen while you are browsing the internet. The window (in a variety of different wordings) indicates that you have been infected by a virus and you should call a particular number to remove the virus. Calling that number puts you in contact with the scammer's bogus "Tech Support Desk". Once you are on the phone with the "Tech Support" technician, the scam begins.

This scam is very insidious because the victim may never even realize that he has been scammed. There are many variations on the details of the scammer's interaction with the computer owner once the call has been made; but basically the steps are: the scammer demonstrates, to the computer user, that there is a virus on the computer; the scammer offers to remove the virus for a fee (\$199 to up to \$549, which may be negotiable); the computer user accepts the offer to remove the virus and pays for it with a credit card; the scammer charges the credit card for the agreed upon fee; the scammer "fixes" the computer; the scammer demonstrates that the computer now has no viruses; the computer user thanks the "Tech Support technician" for his help.

The scammer uses a variety of ways to show you that there is a problem. One such ploy is; the scammer asks you to open the computer's Windows Event Log Viewer to show that there is problem. The scammer attempts to win your confidence by showing you that your system has "Errors". When you open the Windows Event Log Viewer, you see

errors which lends credence to the scammer's statement that you have a virus. (The scammer relies on the fact that whenever you open the Windows Event Log, you will see some type of error or warning listed, which is quite normal.) Another way the scammer shows you that there is a problem is to have you view files that look like problems, but are really just views of a file that are not typically seen by the average user, but are quite normal. Still another technique is to have you run the Configuration Utility. You see "stopped" next to some services or programs and the scammer states that "the fact that those programs or services are stopped indicates that there has been some damage to the computer". (In truth, it is normal to have some programs or services that are stopped, which may not be obvious to the average computer user.)

So, how can we tell if a scam attempt is in progress? Here are some tip-offs to help you recognize a scam attempt. The first tip-off is that they, the scammer, called you. Note well that, Microsoft, Dell, or any other major company's tech support organization is

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your computer. This malware could then lead to future problems.

This may be another tip-off: the Caller ID on the phone says "Microsoft, Tech Support", or something similar, which gives the appearance of a legitimate number. Remember, he called you. (Spoofing Caller ID information, I'm told, is extremely easy to do, with Voice Over IP technology. Brighthouse or Verizon phones employ VOIP technology.)

A strong indication that a scam may be in progress is that the "Tech Support" technician claims that your computer is "sending out errors", or is "sending out SPAM", or is "infected with a new virus that is undetected by current virus protection software", or something similar. This is an attempt to create fear that the computer is infected and to scare you into taking action to correct the situation.

Another tip-off may be that the Tech Support technician has a heavy foreign accent, but he uses a name that sounds like it is of western origin. He will definitely have an explanation for why he does this, but don't buy into it. (Though, I have talked to a

not very likely to use their resources to get in touch with users to fix their computers. (The scammer may tell you that they are doing this as a Public Service; don't buy into it.) If a Tech Support issue arises with a computer, it is incumbent on the user to contact the appropriate Tech Support organization. The user should make the contact with a known phone number!

A very strong indicator that a scam attempt is in progress is that the "Tech Support technician" will ask you to go to a Website and Install a Tool so that they can Remotely Connect to your computer in order to "fix" the problem. This can be a very good, legitimate, way of having a legitimate Tech Support technician fix your problem, if you truly have a problem, and if you called Tech Support. (There are a few free remote control software tools available just for this purpose, such as TeamViewer and GoToMyPC.) However, if they called you and you then give the scammer control over your computer, the scammer now has the ability download malware (viruses, rootkits, Trojan horses, key-loggers, etc.) to

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legitimate Tech Support technician, "Bob", with a heavy foreign accent from Dell who was very helpful, so this may not be the best way to identify a scam.)

I haven't gotten a call, yet, but I have heard of many recent experiences. If you do get a call from "Microsoft Tech Support", just hang up. If you are having a problem with your computer, call the appropriate Tech Support organization, using a number you are confident is correct (not one that you get from a pop-up window). With the number of people in Sun City Center receiving these calls, this area code may be a prime target for these scams.

I'd like to thank Computer Club Member and Instructor, Matt Batt, for bringing the severity of this scam to my attention. Matt has seen the results of many of these scams and has heard of many computer users experiences with this scam.

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CEAInnovate!

George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ

Newsletter: TCS eJournal (www.aztcs.org) [georgehardingbd \(at\) earthlink.net](mailto:georgehardingbd@earthlink.net)

I attended a program put on by CEA, the parent organization that produces the Consumer Electronics Show, presented in Las Vegas the beginning week of January.

The program included a session called Technology Trends to Watch in 2015. It covered some of the hottest subjects today: 3-D printing, the Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data Analytics, Digital Health and Entertainment.

The panel on 3-D printing stated that the technology for home use is not mature and someone trying to use the reasonably priced models available today will have difficulty using them to do anything significant. The business versions, however, are very useful. The latest James Bond movie blew up a golden Aston Martin. It was created from a 3-D printer! It was actually a miniature, but was, nevertheless, an accurate replica of the car. The panel anticipate4s high growth in this product area over the next few years, as more uses are found for

creative products.

The Internet of Things refers to the universe of applications which connect devices to the Internet resources without human interaction. There are many examples of this already in place: refrigerators advising you of the need to replace food; the many home situations that can be controlled by remote devices like smart phones; wearable technology to monitor and measure your health quality; GPS mapping in automobiles; self-driving cars. The current state of IoT has just begun and will expand dramatically in the future, according to the panel.

Big Data Analytics refers to the collection of usage data from you and others, in order to analyze and predict actions. This may be to identify the products you want more efficiently, to broaden product categories to better satisfy customers and increase sales and profits. Whether you know it or not, you are surrounded by Big Data collection and analysis. Every time you use a credit card, the data associated

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with the purchase goes to combine with other data to better serve our needs and the needs of business. An associated issue is that of privacy. There is as yet no consensus about whether Big Data is good or bad, whether it should be allowed or controlled in some way.

Digital Health is also known as Wearable Tech. This is a fast developing field, with quite a large number of products already on the market. The continued development will be in making products do more and do it better. It may go from the ability to track and measure health and fitness to actual diagnosis of disease.

Entertainment is big now, of course, but it shows no signs of slowing down. The personal game devices and the online gaming continue their rapid growth. What is just starting its big growth is the streaming of movies and shows. The trend is driven by the growing reluctance to be tied to a television set for one's entertainment.

It will be very interesting to see how these areas develop and grow over the next decade.

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Tech Armor case for iPhone6

There are many cases available for the new iPhones. One of the best is Tech Armor's case for iPhone6 (there's also one for the iPhone6 Plus).



The new iPhones are different in several ways: thinner, larger and with screen that is rounded at the edges. The Tech Armor case handles all of these.

Not only is it attractive, being a steel gray color, but it is tough enough to protect your phone from bumps, drops, scratches and knocks. The case has a slightly rough surface, making it easy to grasp and hold.

The cutouts for the various buttons are well done, making it easy to press the buttons when needed.

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The back is clear plastic, hard and protective of the iPhone back. The case does not come with a screen protector, but Tech Armor has that, too.

The case comes with a lifetime warranty and is reasonably priced.

About: Tech Armor case for iPhone6

Vendor: Tech Armor

www.techarmor.com

Price: \$15, screen \$7

Ventev

This company produces wireless infrastructure products and mobile accessories. I was provided with several of the mobile accessories to test.

Powercell 6000. This external battery can be easily charged in any wall socket. The back of the charger



has two prongs which fit the wall socket and fold into the charger case. You can charge one or two

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Price: \$15 - \$25

About: Ventev

www.Ventev.com

WeMo by Belkin

We've known Belkin for many years for electronic gear, but they recently opened a new product area for exploration, capitalizing on the use of the Internet to connect disparate things, the so-called IoT (Internet of Things).

I received their WeMo LED Lighting Starter Set for review. It contains two light bulbs and a Link device, plus a set of very brief instructions.

The light bulbs are equivalent in illumination to 60 watt tungsten bulbs. We have been urged to replace tungsten bulbs with CFL (compact flash light) bulbs,



mobile devices with the built-in USB sockets, one providing 1 amp output at 5 watts, the other 2 providing .1 amps at 10 watts. The higher capacity output can be used for a tablet, or a smart phone. In fact, you can charge two mobile devices at the same time, if needed. Price \$75.

Dashport r900. This is a charger, too, but designed to be used in your car. It plugs into the power outlet in the car's dash and provides power whether or not you are near an outlet. It comes with a cable for standard USB connection and also micro-USB. Price \$40.

Chargesync cables. There are several versions of this product, but each is designed to connect your mobile device to its charger or to another type of charger. What's really great about these cables is that they are flat, which means that they do not get tangled up like the round ones. They come in different colors, too. Whether you have an iPhone with 30-pin connection or one of the newer iPhone 5 or 6 cables, or even something else, you'll be able to find one of these cables for you.

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with the incentive that illumination is equivalent but electrical usage is much lower. The bulbs in this kit are LED and go further in reducing electrical usage.

The bulbs look like what we're used to, but have some wizardry inside to allow connectivity through the Internet.

So, what does the kit do for you? It allows you to control two light fixtures separately and to turn each off or on at specified times, on specified days.

The procedure is to plug the Link into a wall socket. An LED comes on to tell you that it's connected. Next, you replace an existing bulb in a lamp or other fixture with one of the WeMo bulbs. You can use both bulbs in the same fixture (a chandelier, say) or in two separate fixtures. Each is controlled separately. Next you download the WeMo app. There is one for Apple as well as Android. You next connect through the app to the WeMo network, then to your home or office network. Once this is done, the app searches for devices. When it finds the bulbs, it stores them and takes you to a page where you can set up your rules.

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The rules involve On time, Off time and day(s) of the week. There is also an Away From Home setting, which is different from the standard setting. One other feature is the ability to fade in or out when the bulb turns on or off.

With the bulbs and the app, you have control over your lighting, no matter where you are, provided you have Wi-Fi, 3G or 4G service.

Belkin has other devices in the WeMo line: Light Switch, Switch/Motion, Crock Pot, Holmes Heater,

Holmes Humidifier, Mr. Coffee and Holmes air Purifier.

About: WeMo

Vendor: Belkin

www.belkin.com/us

Price: \$100, additional bulbs \$30

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Technology Trends for 2015 from CES

Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

(www.compukiss.com) Sberger (at) compukiss.com

Every year at CES, which many know as the Consumer Electronics Show, thousands of new products are exhibited and major trends start to appear. This year was no different. Here are just a few of the trends that you can expect to see affecting your life soon.

Connected Home

We now have the knowledge to connect just about

everything to the Internet and we saw a wide variety of ways to do that. While I personally, might not be ready to put Internet-connected door locks (Kwikset, Schlage, and others) on my home, I would love to have some of Lowes' Iris home connectivity devices, especially the one that turns the water off when a leak is detected. I personally am not much interested in an Internet-

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connected toothbrush(Kolibree), but I think it is a great tool for teaching kids to brush their teeth properly. I loved the TempTraQ band-aid for babies and children that monitors their temperature and sends it to your cell phone. I was also pretty impressed with the light bulbs that play stereo music (Sengled).

Wearable Tech & Health

Watches, pins, and wristbands that count your steps, and monitor your sleep were everywhere at CES this year. Many of these devices even coach you to achieve your goals.Expect to see more and more of this technology this year.

Drones

There were over a hundred different types of Drones. Everyone is looking for uses for these flying wonders that fit into our everyday world.

3-D Printing

They continue to find uses and new materials that can be used with these printers. Specialized filaments let you print in materials that look and feel like bamboo, copper, and brass. Whether you want to print a shower head or a cup for your tea, you can do it with a 3-D printer.

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4K Ultra TVs

Do you really need a TV that gives you more resolution and better color than your current HDTV? No, you probably don't need one, but when you see them you will want one. Even though prices have already plummeted, standards are still being set and there are several competing technologies, so you may want to hold off until much later in the year before you take the plunge.

Automated Vehicles

Cars were everywhere at CES this year. They have plenty of connectivity and helpful additions like parking assist. The Volkswagen Golf Touch has three display screens that you can control by moving your hand in the air. It can also park itself right on its charging pad and it's available now for about \$35,000.

This year more of the devices we saw at the show were already available or will be on the market soon. So expect the electronic stores to be filled to the brim with new devices in the next year.

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SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Main Meeting

Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359 (at) gmail.com)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August. ☐

Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware (at) acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in the back room, most of our time was spent in talking about past experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)
<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig (at) acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

Computer Workshop

Bob Hawes (bob.hawes (at) acgnj.org)

ACGNJ has not held a daytime meeting in quite a while, so we've decided to try again. Our inspiration: The Philadelphia Area Computer Society holds only *one* meeting a month, but it's a biggie. On the third Saturday, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, they hold *seventeen* different meetings, four at a time in four different rooms. Apparently, there *is* an audience for Saturday daytime meetings. We're starting smaller, though. Just one room (our usual) from **1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**. We're calling it Computer Workshop, after the meetings that Burke Mawby held in Aberdeen,

NJ from 1989 to 2007. Our format (to start, anyway) will be random access. We meet on the Saturday immediately following the second Friday of the month. Most times, this is the second Saturday, but it *can* occasionally be the third Saturday. Please check the schedule on Page 1 to be sure. ☞

Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☞

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☞

Web Browser (Formerly Firefox)

David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☞

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). *No* meetings in July or August. ☞

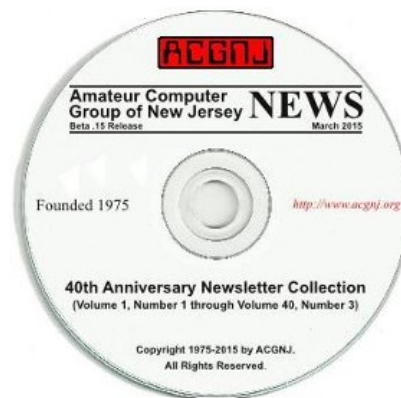
Window Pains

John Raff (jraff (at) comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July or August. ☞

40th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .15 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☞

Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681

Operating Systems

Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
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ACGNJ T-Shirts For Sale



(Front)



(Back)

L, XL: \$15.00

M: 2 for \$15.00

bob.hawes (at) acgnj.org

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at <http://www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html> and pay dues with PayPal.

US/CANADA		Dues	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25		\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40			
3 Years	\$55			\$45

Mail this application and your check to:
 AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups

Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, www.pmug-nj.org	Linux Users Group in Princeton: 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ http://www.lugip.org	New York PC: 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, http://www.nypc.org
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. www.cesop.org/	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. www.bcug.com	NJ Macintosh User Group: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org
PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ, www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org , (908) 995-4042.	NY Amateur Computer Group: 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. http://www.nyacc.org
Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs, Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. http://www.morrismicro.com	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC User Group: 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, www.njpcug.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. www.pacsnet.org	NJ Computer Club: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. http://www.njcc.org	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor: [editor\(at\)acgnj.org](mailto:editor(at)acgnj.org). Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1800-876-WPEN



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building. You'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue to south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building - you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building.